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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/824,912	04/15/2004	Kotaro Kashiwa	450100-05012	7331
7590 08/22/2007 FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP 745 FIFTH AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10151			EXAMINER [REDACTED]	CHIO, TAT CHI
ART UNIT [REDACTED]		PAPER NUMBER 2621		
MAIL DATE 08/22/2007		DELIVERY MODE PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/824,912	KASHIWA ET AL.
	Examiner Tat Chi Chio	Art Unit 2621

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 15 April 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/9/2007 and 5/7/2007.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application
 6) Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugawara et al. (5,652,822) in view of Watanabe (6,002,835).

Consider claim 1, Sugawara et al. teach a video signal processing apparatus comprising: composition means for sequentially selecting a plurality of video signals supplied synchronously with the same synchronization signal at a vertical synchronization timing of said synchronization signal to obtain a composed video signal comprising a composition of said video signals (6 of Fig. 1 corresponds to the composition means); but fail to teach compression means for compressing a composed video signal obtained by said composition means.

Watanabe teaches compression means for compressing a composed video signal obtained by said composition means (14 of Fig. 1). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate a compression means into the apparatus to facilitate compression of the data before saving the data into a recording medium to save storage space.

Consider claim 2, Sugawara et al. teach the video signal processing apparatus further comprising: recording means for recording on a recording medium a compressed and composed video signal compressed by said compression means (8 of Fig. 1).

Consider claim 3, Sugawara et al. teach the video signal processing apparatus according to claim 1 further comprising: transmission means for transmitting a compressed and composed video signal compressed by said compression means (the wires between 10, 11, 13, and SW3 of Fig. 4 correspond to the transmission means).

Consider claim 4, Sugawara et al. and Watanabe teach a video signal processing apparatus comprising: composition means for sequentially selecting and composing a plurality of video signals supplied synchronously with the same synchronization signal at a vertical synchronization timing of said synchronization signal (6 of Fig. 1 of Sugawara et al.); decompression means for applying a decompression process to a compressed and composed video signal compressed after composition by said composition means to obtain a decompressed composed video signal (34 of Fig. 4 of Watanabe); and video decomposition means for sequentially selecting a composed video signal output from said decompression means at a vertical synchronization timing to obtain a plurality of video signals (SW3 of Fig. 4 of Sugawara et al.).

Consider claim 5, Watanabe further teaches the video signal processing apparatus further comprising: interpolation means for interpolating a video signal output from said video decomposition means (35 of Fig. 4).

Consider claim 6, Sugawara et al. teach the video signal processing apparatus further comprising: reproduction means for a recording medium, wherein a compressed

and composed video signal input to said decompression means is reproduced by said reproduction means from a recording medium (20 of Fig. 4).

Consider claim 7, Sugawara et al. teach the video signal processing apparatus further comprising: reception means, wherein a compressed and composed video signal input to said decompression means is received by said reception means (the wire between SW3 and 15 of Fig. 4 corresponds to the reception means).

Consider claim 8, Sugawara et al. and Watanabe teach a video signal processing method comprising the steps of: sequentially selecting a plurality of video signals supplied synchronously with the same synchronization signal at a vertical synchronization timing of said synchronization signal to obtain a composed video signal comprising a composition of said plurality of video signals (Fig. 1 of Sugawara et al.); compressing said composed video signal (14 of Fig. 1 of Watanabe); and recording on a recording medium (8 of Fig. 1 of Sugawara et al.) or transmitting said compressed and composed video signal.

Consider claim 9, Sugawara et al. and Watanabe teach a video signal processing method comprising the steps of: sequentially selecting and composing a plurality of video signals supplied synchronously with the same synchronization signal at a vertical synchronization timing of said synchronization signal (Fig. 1 of Sugawara et al.); applying a decompression process to a compressed and composed video signal compressed after composition in correspondence with said compression process to obtain a decompressed composed video signal (34 of Fig. 4 of Watanabe); and

sequentially selecting said composed video signal at a vertical synchronization timing to output a plurality of video signals (Fig. 4 of Sugawara et al.).

Consider claim 10, Watanabe teaches the video signal processing method further comprising the step of: interpolating said output video signal (35 of Fig. 4).

Consider claim 11, Sugawara et al. and Watanabe teach an imaging apparatus comprising: synchronization signal generation means; a plurality of imaging means for performing imaging based on a synchronization signal from said synchronization signal generation means to output an imaged video signal (1, 2, 3, and 4 of Fig. 1 of Sugawara et al.); composition means for sequentially selecting a plurality of imaged video signals obtained by said plurality of imaging means at a vertical synchronization timing of said synchronization signal to obtain a composed video signal comprising a composition of said plurality of imaged video signals (6 of Fig. 1 of Sugawara et al.); and compression means for compressing a composed video signal obtained by said composition means (14 of Fig. 1 of Watanabe).

Consider claim 12, Sugawara et al. teach the imaging apparatus further comprising: recording means for recording on a recording medium a compressed and composed video signal compressed by said compression means (8 of Fig. 1).

Consider claim 13, Sugawara et al. teach the imaging apparatus further comprising: transmission means for transmitting a compressed and composed video signal compressed by said compression means (the wires between 10, 11, 13, and SW3 of Fig. 4 correspond to the transmission means).

Consider claim 14, Sugawara et al. and Watanabe teach a reproduction apparatus comprising: reproduction means for reproducing from a recording medium a compressed and composed video signal generated by sequentially selecting and composing a plurality of imaged video signals obtained by a plurality of imaging means for performing imaging based on the same synchronization signal and by compressing said imaged video signals after composition, wherein said sequential selection is performed at a vertical synchronization timing of said synchronization signal (20 of Fig. 4 of Sugawara et al.); decompression means for decompressing a compressed and composed video signal reproduced by said reproduction means from a recording medium in correspondence with said compression process to obtain a decompressed composed video signal (34 of Fig. 4 of Watanabe); and video decomposition means for sequentially selecting a composed video signal from said decompression means at a vertical synchronization timing to obtain a plurality of video signals (SW3 of Fig. 4 of Sugawara et al.).

Consider claim 15, Watanabe teaches the reproduction apparatus further comprising: interpolation means for interpolating a video signal output from said video decomposition means (35 of Fig. 4).

Consider claim 16, Sugawara et al. and Watanabe teach a reception apparatus comprising: reception means for receiving a compressed and composed video signal generated by sequentially selecting and composing a plurality of imaged video signals obtained by a plurality of imaging means for performing imaging based on the same synchronization signal and by compressing said imaged video signals after composition,

wherein said sequential selection is performed at a vertical synchronization timing of said synchronization signal (the wire between SW3 and 15 of Fig. 4 of Sugawara et al. corresponds to the reception means); decompression means for decompressing a compressed and composed video signal received by said reception means in correspondence with said compression process to obtain a decompressed composed video signal (34 of Fig. 4 of Watanabe); and video decomposition means for sequentially selecting a composed video signal from said decompression means at a vertical synchronization timing to obtain a plurality of video signals (SW3 of Fig. 4 of Sugawara et al.).

Consider claim 17, Watanabe teaches the reception apparatus further comprising: interpolation means for interpolating a video signal output from said video decomposition means (35 of Fig. 4).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tat Chi Chio whose telephone number is (571) 272-9563. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thursday 8:30 AM-6:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thai Tran can be reached on (571)-272-7382. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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